

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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**Doctors' Office Files State's 300,000<sup>th</sup> Electronic Tax Return**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.**, April 10, 2003—Revenue's Electronic Filing (ELF) service reached a milestone this week when a Richland physicians' office completed the 300,000<sup>th</sup> return to be filed since the service began in late 1998.

Nearly 40,000 of the state's 360,000 taxpaying businesses now use ELF, and the number of users has been growing by at least six percent a month since the service was expanded to accommodate all taxpayers last year.

"Do we get a prize?" asked Terri Higgins, financial manager of Northwest Orthopaedic Associates. Prize or not, Higgins said she is sticking with Electronic Filing because it is quicker and easier than filling out old-fashioned paper returns.

"It's very convenient, and I'm sure that its gone because I get a confirmation," she said.

Agency Acting Director Will Rice said ELF is growing in popularity because it helps taxpayers avoid making math or rate errors that force the Department of Revenue to contact them to correct the returns.

"ELF is helping businesses get it right the first time by automatically calculating taxes due and flagging any potential errors or omissions *before* a return is filed," Rice said. "It's proving to be a real timesaver both for taxpayers and the agency."

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